



New documents on political and social issues

October 2009

ADVANCING THE NATIONAL PARK IDEA

U.S. Department of Interior, September 2009

http://www.doi.gov/documents/Second_Century_Commission_Report.pdf

The report conveys the message that the National Park System is at a crossroads, facing challenges such as urgent environmental problems, a burgeoning population and critical needs in education. It calls for a new vision recognizing the interrelationships between human beings and the natural world and the need for a sustainable relationship between people and the planet.

BENCHMARKING DIVERSITY: A FIRST LOOK AT NEW YORK CITY FOUNDATIONS AND NONPROFITS

The Foundation Center, October 2009

<http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/diversity2009.pdf>

New York City foundations and nonprofit organizations have racially diverse staffs, according to a new report by Philanthropy New York and the Foundation Center, but this diversity decreases at higher levels of seniority. A substantial number of foundations and nonprofits are tracking information about the racial and ethnic makeup of the grantees and populations that they respectively serve. The study is the first of its kind in New York City and the nation to examine "both sides" of the equation — with survey data from 95 grantmaking foundations and 540 nonprofit organizations in the five boroughs.

BREAKING THE IMMIGRATION STALEMATE: FROM DEEP DISAGREEMENTS TO CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS

Brookings Institution, October 6, 2009

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1006_immigration_roundtable/1006_immigration_roundtable.pdf

The Obama administration has committed itself to immigration reform. Yet despite all the shortcomings of current policy — threats to the rule of law, exploitation of vulnerable newcomers, real and perceived competition with Americans for jobs and public resources — reasonable compromise on immigration will be exceedingly difficult. The divide between elite and public opinion on this issue remains deep and wide. It is a critical factor in the lack of trust that pervades today's political culture.

BRINGING ELECTIONS INTO THE 21st CENTURY: VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION

Pew Center on the States, September 2009

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Voter_Registration_Modernization_Brief_web.pdf

America's current voter registration system is outdated, costly and inaccurate, according to the report. The report estimates that more than two million voters were unable to cast a ballot in the 2008 general election due to registration problems. It reviews the underperformance of the current voter registration system and recommends a 21st century, data-driven registration system.

CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE: A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SURVEY

U.S. Department of Justice, October 2009

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/227744.pdf>

The report presents findings from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. The survey was conducted between January and May 2008, and surveyed more than 4,500 children or their parents or adult caregivers regarding their past-year and lifetime exposure to violence. It discusses the survey's findings regard children's direct and indirect exposure to specific categories of violence, how exposure to violence changes as children grow up, and the prevalence and incidence of multiple and cumulative exposures to violence.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL: JOBLESSNESS AND JAILING FOR HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND THE HIGH COST FOR TAXPAYERS

Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern, October 2009

http://www.clms.neu.edu/publication/documents/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.pdf

The paper identifies a series of employment, earnings, income, and social difficulties faced by the nation's young adults lacking regular high school diplomas or their equivalent. These social and incarceration problems of young dropouts are quite severe among all gender and race-ethnic groups but are frequently more severe among men and Blacks, according to the report.

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION – SEPTEMBER 2009

U.S. Department of Labor, October 2, 2009

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 7.6 million to 15.1 million, and the unemployment rate has doubled to 9.8 percent.

In September, the number of persons working part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers, was little changed at 9.2 million. The number of such workers rose sharply throughout most of the fall and winter but has been little changed since March.

GEOGRAPHY OF HOMELESSNESS, PART 1, 2, AND 3

National Alliance to End Homelessness, September 29, 2009

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2437> Part 1

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2490> Part 2

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2529> Part 3

In Parts 1 and 2 of the Geography of Homelessness Series the report examines the scope and prevalence of homelessness within geographic categories ranging from completely rural to completely urban. The part 2 examines the ways in which the distribution of these subpopulations and subgroups across the five geographic types is similar to or different from that of the total homeless population.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM AND MEDICARE: MAKING MEDICARE STRONGER FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

Healthreform.GOV, September 23, 2009

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/medicare/medicare.pdf>

The report outlines how health insurance reform will help seniors and answers key questions about President Obama's health insurance reform plan.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT AND COMPLETION RATES IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007 COMPENDIUM REPORT

U.S. Department of Education, September 23, 2009

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009064.pdf>

The report includes discussions of many rates used to study how students complete or fail to complete high school. It presents estimates of rates for 2007 and provides data about trends in dropout and completion rates over the last three and a half decades (1972-2007) along with more recent estimates of on-time graduation.

HISPANIC, HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Pew Hispanic Center, September 25, 2009

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/113.pdf>

Six-in-ten Hispanic adults living in the United States who are not citizens or legal permanent residents lack health insurance. The share of uninsured among this group (60%) is much higher than the share of uninsured among Latino adults who are legal permanent residents or citizens (28%), or among the adult population of the United States (17%).

IMMIGRANTS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT'S REALLY AT STAKE?

Migration Policy Institute, October 5, 2009

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/healthcare-Oct09.pdf>

Health care reform proposals under consideration in Congress that would exclude many legal immigrants from core benefits and impose new verification requirements would have important spillover consequences for taxpayers and other health care consumers, according to the analysis in the report.

MEASURING IMMIGRANT ASSIMILATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Manhattan Institute, October 2009

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_59.pdf

The year 2007 marked an economic turning point in the United States. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nation's economic output peaked late in the year and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two important ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who not only arrived but stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically. Economic assimilation declined even among immigrants who arrived more than a decade ago, indicating that differences between that cohort and the native-born population widened.

OVERLOOKED AND UNDERSERVED: THE CRISIS FACING AMERICA'S OLDER WORKERS

Experience Works, September 2009

http://www.experienceworks.org/site/DocServer/EW-ExecSummary_09-Final.pdf?docID=10381

The study of more than 2,000 low-income unemployed workers age 55 and older, 46 percent need to find jobs so they don't lose their homes or apartments, and approximately half, 49 percent, have been looking for work for more than a year. In July 2009, there were two million unemployed workers age 55 plus; the unemployment rate for this age group was the highest since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tabulating data by age in 1948.

PROTECT CHILDREN, NOT GUNS 2009

Children's Defense Fund, September 23, 2009

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-report-2009.pdf>

The report finds an increase in firearm deaths among children and teens for the second year in a row, after a decade of decline prior to 2005. Using the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDF's report shows that 3,184 children and teens were killed by firearms in 2006, a 6 percent increase from the previous year.

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY ON WHAT HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM MEANS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

The White House, September 18, 2009

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-First-Lady-on-What-Health-Insurance-Reform-Means-for-Women-and-Families/

The First Lady discusses health insurance issues often faced by the women for the families.

THE STATE OF HEALTH IN THE AMERICAN WORKFORCE: DOES HAVING AN EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE MATTER?

Families and Work Institute, September 22, 2009

<http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/HealthReport.pdf>

In the midst of the most vigorous national health care debate in 15 years, and at a time of heightened economic insecurity, new data on employers show that the health of employed American workers is trending downward in a number of important areas. The report finds that only 28% of employees today report that their overall health is “excellent,” down from 34% just six years ago. Perhaps surprisingly, men’s overall health has declined more rapidly than women’s.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT: EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, October 2009

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1009.html>

As an institution, the Supreme Court commands respect, legitimacy, and prestige both in the United States and abroad. The October 2009 edition of eJournal USA describes many aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Solicitor General Elena Kagan present their introductions and contributions by legal scholars and journalists focus on the elements of judicial decision making and independence of the justices. Four Court officials and a former Supreme Court law clerk also describe their jobs.

WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE: A DATABOOK

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2009

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/wlf-databook-2009.pdf>

The past several decades have been marked by notable changes in women’s labor force activities. Women’s labor force participation is significantly higher today than it was in the 970s, particularly among women with children, and a larger share of women work full time and year round than in past decades. In addition, women have increasingly attained higher levels of education: among women aged 25 to 64 who are in the labor force, the proportion with a college degree roughly tripled from 1970 to 2008.

All previous web alerts can be found at:
<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>